

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a replacement claim set.

1. (currently amended) An autoclave for curing a tread strip to a tire casing with heated, pressurized air, comprising:

an elongated chamber having a frame for supporting tire casing and tread assemblies within the chamber;

a heat exchanger for heating air;

an air supply duct defined by a wall having an air inlet and an air outlet at opposite ends, through which air is circulated to the elongated chamber;

an air circulating system for circulating the air as a flow through the chamber, the heat exchanger, and the supply duct; and

an air flow turbulence generators disposed in the chamber in a main air flow, comprising at least one aperture formed on a wall of the supply duct to guide air from the duct into the chamber in a direction disruptive to the main air flow in the chamber.

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) The autoclave as claimed in claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein the at least one aperture is formed at a midpoint of the main air flow in the chamber.

4. (currently amended) The autoclave as claimed in claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein the at least one aperture includes a louver formed on the wall of the chamber to guide air from the supply duct.

5. (currently amended) The autoclave as claimed in claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, wherein the apertures comprise at least one nozzle communicating with the supply duct to guide air into the chamber ~~in a direction disruptive of~~ for disruption of the main air flow in a central third of the chamber.

Patent
Attorney Docket No.: P50-0048

6. (withdrawn) The autoclave as claimed in claim 1, wherein the air flow turbulence generators comprise at least one air deflector disposed on a wall defining an interior of the chamber.
7. (currently amended) The autoclave as claimed in claim ~~[[6]]~~ 1, wherein the at least one ~~deflector aperture~~ is disposed in a middle third portion of the air flow path in the chamber.
8. (withdrawn) The autoclave as claimed in claim 6, wherein the at least one deflector is a fin.
9. (withdrawn) The autoclave as claimed in claim 6, wherein the at least one deflector is a wedge-shaped element.
10. (withdrawn) The autoclave as claimed in claim 6, wherein the at least one deflector is a vane.